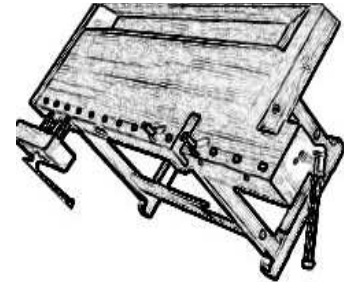


BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild
VISIT US AT - WWW.VIWG.COM

Issue: JUNE-2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Show and Tell: the meeting started off with an extensive show and tell session. *Howard Rossiter* showed us all how he improved his table saw's fence by cladding it with aluminum, and saving a ton of cash in the process. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention! We then heard from a new member named *Marcus* who is a professional luthier. He brought one of his classical guitars which was a work of art. It never ceases to amaze me the people that join our guild, and the level of skill they bring.

Tim Souter brought in examples of his turning. My favourite was a flat, slightly curved plate. It was square in profile and looked like a sushi plate. Very nice. Jim Barker had an incredible Compass Rose that he had created on his C.N.C. machine. Very complicated, and absolutely flawless. He also showed us a tray that was a hollowed out ellipse on one half, and on the other half, a mirror image in negative. Hard to explain but an example of how the C.N.C. will perform amazing things if you have a creative pattern makers mind! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone else, but if I did, thank you too. A big thank you to all. Its very encouraging to see so many members willing to participate in meetings in such a direct way.

At the end of show and tell, Chico and I gave a short talk on hand planes – restoring, tuning, sharpening etc. Chico explained the difference between a modern, expensive plane and a generic model. He also demonstrated the new Veritas sharpener which is quite a machine (\$400.00 worth!). It was also nice for me to talk with you about something I'm passionate about. Even as a woodwork teacher, I rarely get to talk about the part of wood-working that most intrigues me – the hand tools. The best part about show and tell is that one can speak in a relaxed, unplanned manner amongst friends who have the same interests. I hope that some of you will think about sharing your expertise with the rest of us.

Special Interest Questionnaire: The second half of the meeting was reserved for small group discussion. We all broke into our respective groups based on the roster created, and answered a questionnaire. This exercise was created to help the executive understand the direction the members would like the Guild to take in the future. Please see Phil's report for more

information. I also hope that you will start thinking about how and when your group might organize and give an educational session for the rest of us. I'm looking forward to next year to see what you come up with! I know it will be interesting.

Shaw Cable: We had another member featured on Shaw Cable, Channel 11 this week! Ken McLennan is an electric guitar builder who makes his guitar bodies in the shapes of elephant heads, hand, faces etc. Great work Ken. For more information, check Ken out at www.mczeek.com.

Thanks To The Executive: I would like to reserve this space to thank each executive member for all the support they have offered me over the last year. They work tirelessly for this committee and the Guild. In particular, *I would like to offer a very special thank you to Phil Makin for all the support and direction* he has given, and continues to give me. The stamp Phil has made on this organization is difficult to fully appreciate until you work side by side with him. He has brought a rigour and professionalism to the Guild, which in my mind sets this group apart from many other woodworking groups. His handle on the numerous issues we face is staggering – from website design, to membership, to the multitude of other minute details that need to be considered to run this Guild. All positions on the executive have become easier to inherit and handle because of the work Phil has done over the last several years. I know he will be embarrassed by me saying this, but on behalf of the Guild executive and members, THANK YOU PHIL!!!!

In closing, you are probably wondering why this newsletter came so early. We wanted to give you lots of time to think about the upcoming elections and the possibility of letting your name stand! So give it some thought. The next meeting is as usual at Camosun College on June 14th at 7:15 p.m. See you there.

Russ Franson, President

CORRECTION

In the show & tell, I said the finest grit available for the Veritas sharpening jig is 4000 Grit, actually that figure is 1200 Grit.

HC Sakman, Editor

JUNE MEETING

Camosun College - Carpentry Building
Tuesday, June 14th. 7:15 PM

Keynote Speakers – HC (Chico) Sakman and Russ Franson

We were treated to a very interesting and fun presentation and demonstration on planes. Russ did a super job in presenting the anatomy of a plane and what makes it tick and not tick. Using a plane that I provided (and was in bad shape), he showed how to take it apart and then told us what steps he would take to flatten the bottom and sharpen the blade and ensure that the blade was installed correctly. Russ indicated that because of the condition of this plane, it would probably take on the order of 90 minutes to get it set up by hand methods. Russ also covered some of the current sharpening stones and I learned that diamond stones are a fast method of rough sharpening. Then Russ's method takes us to water stones for the final bevel and microbevel setting.

Next Chico took the stage to demonstrate the Lee Valley power sharpening system. Chico drew some comparisons to this sharpening system and the hand methods discussed by Russ. This system has been available for the past two years and resembles a slow speed turntable. The turntable is fitted with round abrasive all the way up to 1200 grit. I thought the key to it was first speed, but also the system of jigs or holders resulting in maintaining the correct angle for sharpening and therefore high precision. Also, I thought the cool idea of having the abrasive pads varying in thickness so that the microbevel could be set without changing the blade setting in the holding jig was simple and so elegant. Just put on a thinner abrasive pad and voila, you now have a three degree steeper angle with which to set the microbevel.

The Lee Valley power sharpening system is not something that many of us will have in our shops (cost is around \$399+taxes.) so having the demonstration means we saw it in action – not just in the catalogue.

The presentation then covered using and discussing a variety of planes from commodity planes to some of the best – Veritas and Lie Neilson included. We all saw and heard the wonderful action of a tuned plane moving effortlessly (well at least it seemed like it to the audience) over a knurly piece of backyard arbutus. Thanks to both Chico and Russ!

Also, a big **thank you** to all the people who contributed to **Show and Tell** – everything covered from wood growth differences (Wayne Begg) to creative fence improvements on the older Ridgid table saws (Howard Rossiter) and several others. All made for a most enjoyable evening.

Planning Session Results

Our second planning session with our members took place at the May meeting. This time we shortened the questionnaire and received feedback from four groups that were quickly assembled. My thanks to the people who volunteered as the documenters for their groups.

We reviewed the input at our recent executive meeting and this article is intended to give a flavor of some of your input which is so important to our guild. Thanks to you all!

Meetings

Our meetings are rated favorably, suggestion for better sighting (ie: people can't see), starting on time, also question about how things will be in the new shop next year

Show and Tell

More encouragement to people, several topics suggested – safety, jigs, reminders about how to do a show and tell, joints, equipment maintenance, dust collection, wood movement, announce show and tell coordinator at beginning of meeting so people can contact them to get on the program

Keynotes

Several suggestions were made such as boxmaking with Phil Smith, polishing with Dan Gentile and more

Library

Rated well, (thanks to Ed Krakowski as our long term librarian), suggestion to have phone numbers added to the information sheet for removing item from library, this would make it easier for followup on item status, put library on website, suggestion for more how to videos/DVD's in our future acquisitions

Educational Clinics

We are looking for someone to organize educational clinics next year (one per month approx), we received several volunteers who said they would teach a half day clinic (eg David Muir, Chico Sakman, Russ Franson, Mike Kattler and Len Barnes and others)

We also received good input on **Toys for Kids** (suggested getting started earlier in the fall), **Woodworking Shows** (volunteer names) and more. A few other volunteers' names came forward such as people willing to get involved in some of the guild services like **the web site** (thanks Clint Abbott). It is very gratifying to have people come forward to support the guild. There are lots to do so having new folks involved is important.

On behalf of the executive, we thank you for your assistance in this planning activity. Your ideas will be very valuable in putting together the programs and events for the coming year!

In closing, I know that Ken Guenter was very pleased with the initial response from our members on being part of the organization of the 2007 Furniture Society Convention (approximately 20 came forward). Ken and others will be working to find an enjoyable way for our volunteers to contribute to this event.

Phil Makin, Past-president

Fine Furniture Program 2005 Year-end Exhibition:

“Seating in Western Maple”

Why: For the sixteenth straight year, students in the Fine Furniture Program will be completing a final project which allows them to push their skills in the areas of furniture design, construction, and finishing, while promoting the fact that high quality well designed furniture is being made in Victoria out of our local wood resources.

Where: On Canvas Gallery 538-B Yates St.

Where: June 17-26

What: This year’s project has had two main constraints. First of all, it must be usable for functional seating. Secondly, the completed piece of furniture must fit within the shipping size requirements imposed by companies like FedEx, UPS, and Canada Post. If the assembled project won’t fit within the specified size, it must be designed and constructed so that it could be shipped in parts and easily assembled once delivered.

Who: The wood used will be donated by the Vancouver Island Woodworker’s Guild as part of their Wood Recovery Program. The Guild program reclaims trees from municipalities, developers, and highway maintenance crews that in the past were simply cut for firewood. Once obtained, volunteers from the Guild oversee that the wood is milled and delivered to the College for kiln drying suitable for use in furniture making.

Once again, the Vancouver Island Woodworker’s Guild will be presenting the student who is judged to have the best piece with a \$500.00 award. Judging will take place at the exhibition venue and be completed by a panel of experienced furniture industry designers, builders and retailers.

Rules and Restrictions:

Your project can be defined as a chair, bench, stool, lounge, or any other device which supports the human body at an angle less than horizontal (no beds).

Your project must be shippable within one Fedex / Canada Post / UPS sized boxes (Girth of box" + length of box" = less than 130"). It must weigh less than 55 kg.

The final project will be constructed primarily of 4/4 Western Maple with a maximum of 25 bd-ft. (which will be supplied at no charge) Other materials may be used as long as Western Maple remains the dominant material. MDF and plywood will be supplied by the College in reasonable amounts for jig/template making and project parts at no charge.

Camosun will provide shop supplies (glue, screws, biscuits, dowels, etc.) and standard finishing materials. All other materials, hardware and finishes are the responsibility of the maker to acquire and fund.

The project must be completed, finished and ready for jurying and display from Friday June 17 to Monday, June 24.

Cam Russell

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you need a website?

Or do you know someone who needs one? What about up-dating or maintaining your site? I can do almost anything you are thinking of in a website. If you or anyone you know is interested in a Website being created, re-created, developed, maintained or up-dated please call **Karen Orman @ 383 8421or ksorman@shaw.ca**

TOOLS'N SPACE WOODWORKING

New and wider selection of Lie-Nielsen planes, spokeshaves & saws as well as new arrival of Japanese saws, chisels and other specialty hand tools are now in stock.

338 Catherine St. 381-9600

Rosewood (Dalbergia Bariensis) from Cambodia.

Wide boards at \$33 per bd.ft, while widths under 6 inches are at \$25 per bd.ft.. These are in log form, so milling is included in these prices.

Call **Launie Gratto @ 658-0760**
launie@effectivewriter.com

Wood Recovery Report– 2004 to 2005

We milled 6000 board feet between July 04 and June 05. The species of trees milled included ash, elm, garry oak, cedar, sequoia, horse chestnut, maple, eucalyptus, cherry, yew, hornbeam, and black locust. Our miller, Larry Dorosh, has been very helpful to us with the loan of his trailer when we needed to move lumber or trees.

Wood recovery set up a committee to help guide and improve the program. Members of the committee include Derek Wentworth, Tim Soutar, George Calveley, Doug Rhodes, Claude Mury and Tim Hodson. Thanks to all who have helped in any way with the program to make this program a very genuine success.

Wayne Holmes

OUR SPONSORS

Show your appreciation for the following companies which support the Guild by membership discounts.

- Aarrow Safety Inc.**
- Altech Machining**
- Columbia Fire & Safety LTD.** (10% off Card Required!)
- Island Imports**
- Island Saw & Tool Co.**
- Mother Computers** (See Tony Scott, Card Required!)
- PJ White Hardwoods LTD.**
- Reimer Hardwoods LTD.**
- Richelieu Panel Products**
- Skookum Tools LTD.**
- Slegg Lumber LTD.**
- Tools'n Space Woodworking**
- Troy Electric Sales & Service**
- Victoria Speciality Hardware LTD.**
- West Wind Hardwoods Inc.**
- Windsor Plywood LANGFORD**

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- Door Prize Coordinator - Daniel Ouimet (same as below)
- Sponsor Liaison - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506 chanteclerwoodcraft@telus.net
- Webmaster - John Porter 642-4480 jim@woodandartstudio.com
- Man on the Street Photos -

STUDENT LIASON REPS :

- Camosun College – To Be Determined
- Belmont High - Brad Tikk 391-1992
- Other High Schools—To Be Determined

NEWSLETTER EDITOR :

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Please use e-mail for your classified submissions. If you must phone to submit your ad, please do so after 8:00 pm any day of the week. Cut-off time is exactly one week prior to the guild meeting.